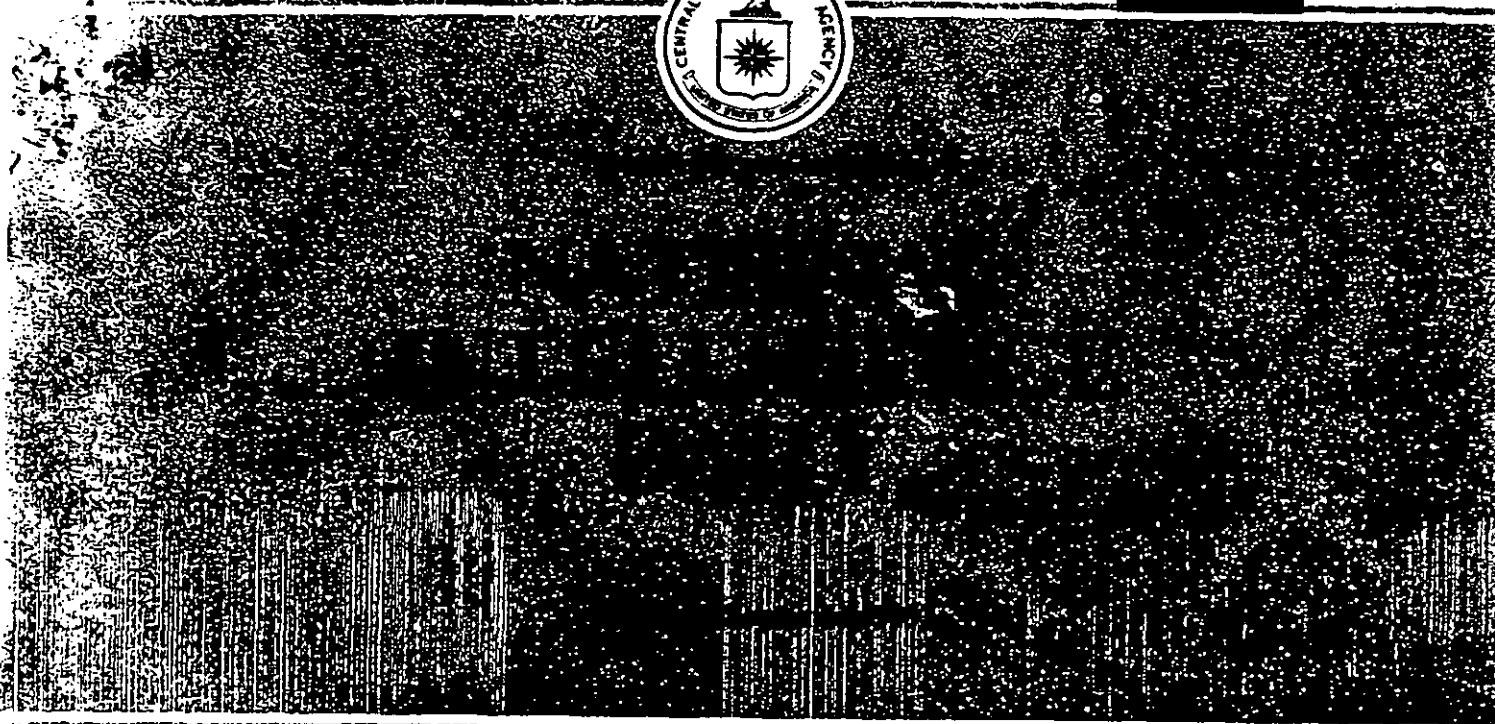
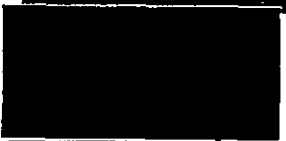


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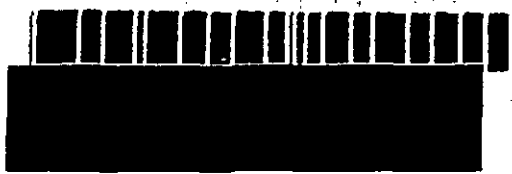
Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

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6 September 1991

Handwritten initials and markings, including "33" and "55".



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CHILE: Developments in Letelier Case

Chile's recent efforts to resolve the 1976 murder of former Foreign Minister Letelier reportedly is causing increased concern on the part of the alleged perpetrators. The government encouraged the Letelier family to file a formal complaint charging Manuel Contreras and Pedro Espinoza, two former senior Army intelligence officers under US indictment, with the murder; the filing has extended the statute of limitations beyond the September deadline. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In addition, Aylwin has appointed a reputable prosecuting judge to reopen a criminal investigation into a forged passports case tied to the murders. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The prosecuting judge is expected to subpoena the officers and is concerned for his safety. [REDACTED]

Comment: Contreras probably knows that using violence would further implicate him and invite more aggressive legal action, but he may well use harassment and threats. Both officers probably realize that, even if they are indicted, the proceedings will be protracted and may be stymied by a Supreme Court still dominated by Pinochet loyalists, whom Contreras might try to influence with new threats to implicate Pinochet in the murder. [REDACTED]

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6 September 1991